

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A carrier for developing latent electrostatic images, comprising:
 - a magnetic particle; and
 - a coating layer covering the magnetic particle,
 - wherein the coating layer comprises a condensation product of a composition comprising:
 - (i) an alkoxyalkylated polyamide, and
 - (ii) a silicone resin that is reactive with the alkoxyalkylated polyamide.
2. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the coating layer has a wear rate of 50% or less as determined after reproducing 100,000 copies of a character image with an image areal ratio of 12% using a developer comprising 93 parts by weight of the carrier and 7 parts by weight of a toner with a copying machine.
3. (Currently Amended) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises (iii) a silicone compound having at least one group selected from the group consisting of a hydrolyzable group, and a group capable of crosslinking upon polycondensation and a mixture thereof.
4. (Currently Amended) A carrier according to Claim 3, wherein the silicone compound (iii) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an aminosilane coupling agent, ~~and~~ a monofunctional silane compound, ~~or a~~ bifunctional silane compound

having at least one of a terminal group represented by formula: $C_nH_{2n+1}-$, and mixtures thereof,

wherein said monofunctional silane compound has at least one of a terminal group selected from the group consisting of a) a group represented by formula: $C_nH_{2n+1}-$, wherein n is an integer of 1 to 4, b) a phenyl group and c) mixtures thereof,

wherein said bifunctional silane compound has at least one of a terminal group selected from the group consisting of a) a group represented by formula: $C_nH_{2n+1}-$, wherein n is an integer of 1 to 4, b) a phenyl group and c) mixtures thereof

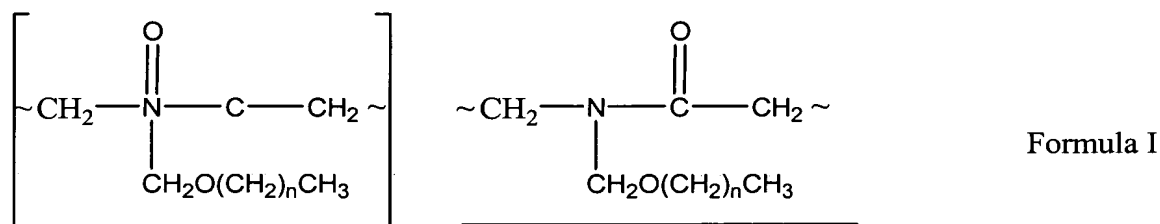
wherein "n" is an integer of 1 to 4,

and a terminal phenyl group.

5. (Currently Amended) A carrier according to Claim 4, wherein the monofunctional or bifunctional silane compound has at least one group selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, a methoxy group, and an ethoxy group and combinations thereof.

6. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 4, wherein the aminosilane coupling agent has an amino equivalent of 170 to 230.

7. (Currently Amended) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the alkoxyalkylated polyamide is at least one N-alkoxyalkylated polyamide having a repeating unit represented by following Formula I:



wherein "n" is an integer of 0 to 5.

8. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 7, wherein "n" in Formula I is an integer of 1 to 5.

9. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 8, wherein the N-alkoxyalkylated polyamide is an N-butoxymethylated polyamide.

10. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the alkoxyalkylated polyamide is an N-alkoxyalkylated polyamide having an alkoxylation ratio of 20% by mole to 70% by mole.

11. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the silicone resin is a resin containing a silicone at least having a silanol group and/or a hydrolyzable group.

12. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the condensation product is a product of a condensation reaction between the alkoxyalkylated polyamide and the silicone resin, and a self-condensation reaction of the silicone resin.

13. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier contains a positively chargeable site that is positively chargeable when the carrier is mixed with a toner.

14. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 13, wherein the positively chargeable site is an amide bonding site in the condensation product.

15. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises an organic solid acid having a boiling point of 100°C or higher as a catalyst.

16. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a methylol melamine.

17. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a methylol benzoguanamine.

18. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a phenol resin.

19. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier has an electric resistivity in terms of log R of 14 or more at an applied electric field of 50 V/mm and an electric resistivity in terms of log R of 16 or less at an applied electric field of 250 V/mm.

20. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the coating layer further comprises a low-resistance substance having an electric resistivity of 10^{-4} to $10^8 \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$.

21. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 20, wherein the low-resistance substance is electrically conductive carbon.

22. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1, wherein the coating layer comprises hard fine particles.

23. (Currently Amended) A carrier according to Claim 22, wherein the hard fine particles are metal oxide particles or inorganic oxide particles, and wherein the ~~metal oxide~~ hard fine particles comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, titanium oxide, ~~and~~ aluminum oxide and mixtures thereof.

24. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 23, wherein the content of the ~~metal oxide~~ hard fine particles in the coating layer is from 5% by weight to 70% by weight of the coating layer.

25. (Original) A carrier according to Claim 1,
wherein the carrier has a weight-average particle diameter D_w in a range of 25 μm to 45 μm ,

wherein the carrier comprises component particles having a diameter of less than 44 μm in an amount of 70% by weight or more, and component particles having a diameter of less than 22 μm in an amount of 7% by weight or less, based on the total amount of the carrier, and

wherein the ratio D_w/D_p of the weight-average particle diameter D_w of the carrier to a number-average particle diameter D_p of the carrier is in a range of 1.00 to 1.30.

26. (Original) A developer for latent electrostatic images, comprising:

a toner; and

a carrier,

the carrier which comprises:

a magnetic particle; and

a coating layer covering the magnetic particle,

wherein the coating layer comprises a condensation product of a composition comprising an alkoxyalkylated polyamide and a silicone resin that is reactive with the alkoxyalkylated polyamide.

27. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge, comprising:

a development unit configured to develop a latent electrostatic image formed on a surface of a latent electrostatic image bearing member; and

at least one member selected from the group consisting of a latent electrostatic image bearing member, a charging unit configured to uniformly charge the latent electrostatic image bearing member, and a blade configured to wipe off a developer remained on a surface of the latent electrostatic image bearing member,

the process cartridge being integrated with and detachable with an image forming apparatus,

wherein the development unit houses:

a toner; and

a carrier,

the carrier which comprises:

a magnetic particle; and

a coating layer covering the magnetic particle,

wherein the coating layer comprises a condensation product of a composition comprising an alkoxyalkylated polyamide and a silicone resin that is reactive with the alkoxyalkylated polyamide.

28. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a latent electrostatic image bearing member;

a charging unit configured to uniformly charge the latent electrostatic image bearing member;

an ~~espousing~~ exposing unit configured to applying the latent electrostatic image bearing member with light imagewise to form a latent image;

a development unit containing a developer, configured to develop the latent image using the developer to form a toner image; and

a transferring unit configured to transfer the toner image from the latent electrostatic image bearing member to a recording medium,

wherein the developer comprises:

a toner; and

a carrier,

the carrier which comprises:

a magnetic particle; and

a coating layer covering the magnetic particle,

wherein the coating layer comprises a condensation product of a composition comprising an alkoxyalkylated polyamide and a silicone resin that is reactive with the alkoxyalkylated polyamide.

29. (Original) An image forming process comprising the steps of:

charging a latent electrostatic image bearing member;

exposing the charged latent electrostatic image bearing member to light imagewise to form a latent electrostatic image;

developing the latent electrostatic image by supplying a developer thereto to thereby form a visible toner image; and

transferring the formed toner image to a transfer member,

Application No.: 10/726,669

Reply to the Office Action dated December 2, 2004:

wherein the developer comprises:

a toner for developing latent electrostatic images; and

a carrier for developing latent electrostatic images,

the carrier which comprises:

a magnetic particle; and

a coating layer covering the magnetic particle,

wherein the coating layer comprises a condensation product of a composition comprising an alkoxyalkylated polyamide and a silicone resin that is reactive with the alkoxyalkylated polyamide.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors.

The Claims have been amended to correct minor informalities. The amendment of Claim 23 is supported at page 25, lines 10-18 of the specification. The amendment of Claim 24 is supported at page 25, lines 19-22 of the specification. The amendment of Claim 28 is supported at page 33, line 17, of the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-29 will now be active in this application.